

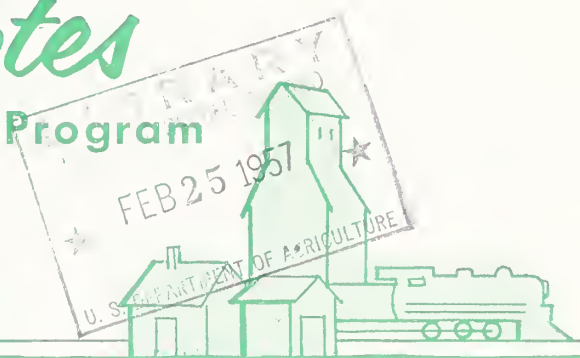
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Clean Grain Notes

for Cooperators in Clean Grain Program



FEDERAL EXTENSION SERVICE

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

NO. 4

Grain Sanitation Conference, November 12-13: The second national grain sanitation conference has been scheduled for Monday and Tuesday, November 12-13, at the Aladdin Hotel in Kansas City, Missouri.

This conference is sponsored jointly by the Millers' National Federation and the Association of Operative Millers. The well-rounded program features speakers from the several facets of government and industry interested in a common goal--cleaner grain. They will report progress of organized efforts to reduce contamination of grain, tell new methods for insect and rodent control and speak on a number of related topics.

Specific topics Monday morning include Pure Food and Drug Administration observations on progress with grain sanitation, the Miller Amendment as it pertains to pesticide residues on grains, and a progress report on the National Clean Grain Program. The Monday afternoon program will include progress reports on what is being done in industry and on the farm to promote cleaner grain. There will be reports from representatives of flour mills, dry and wet corn mills and wheat farmers, an industrial concern and a land-grant college.

Tuesday's program also will bring the latest word on new methods and techniques for combatting infestation as well as reports on problems of specific areas. Here again, speakers represent government, college and industrial concerns.

Seizure Picture....Take A Second Look:

	Seizures	Cars Examined
	(July 1 - Sept. 30)	(July 1 - Sept. 30)
1956	11	718
1955	2	264

Eleven vs. two....at first glance the number of seizures of wheat in interstate shipment since the new grain contamination tolerances went into effect appears discouraging. But take a second look. Actually, there's reason for optimism. More than $2\frac{1}{2}$ times as many cars were examined this year than during the corresponding period a year ago. The Food and Drug Administration reports that, had the old tolerances remained in effect, only two cars would have been seized during the July-September period.

Tolerances, as you know, were sliced exactly in half on July 1, 1956. Under the new standards wheat in interstate transit is subject to seizure if it contains one or more rodent pellets per pint, or one percent or more by weight insect-damaged kernels.

FDA also reports that, of a total of 33 seizures made since January 5, 1955, 4 contained four or more pellets per pint; 5 contained three to four pellets per pint; 18 contained two to three pellets per pint; and 6 contained one to two pellets per pint.

So far (September 30) in 1956 there have been six seizures of pink (mercury contaminated) wheat. In 1955 there were nine seizures for the year.

Notes Lower Contamination: Herman Fakler, vice president of the Millers' National Federation, has this to say about the progress of the Clean Grain program in a recent issue of the Hookup:

"The tempo of the Clean Grain program has been increasing with the passage of time, and there now is a great deal of evidence that this campaign is producing a lot of worthwhile improvement. ...A mill executive does not need to go any farther than his own laboratory to find evidence that the contamination levels in wheat are decidedly better than they were a few years ago. In giving major credit to the Clean Grain program, we are not overlooking the useful and effective work which has been done by many mill and grain concerns in the field of grain sanitation. Their activities have dovetailed into and strengthened the Extension Service campaign."

Four Insects Do Most of Grain Damage: Four species of insects are responsible for most of the insect damage to grain in storage or shipment, according to the Department's Agricultural Marketing Service. These are the granary weevil, the lesser grain borer or Australian wheat weevil, and the Angoumois grain moth. There are, of course, other insects that can severely damage grain if storage conditions are particularly favorable for them. But if grain in the unbroken kernel remains unaffected by the four insects mentioned above, chances are slim that any other insect will damage it appreciably in storage or shipment.

Just a Review. . .The "safe" moisture content for stored grain depends on your location. The warmer the climate, the lower the moisture content must be to prevent souring, heating, molding and also to help eliminate insect damage. Insects like moisture with their grain.

In the central Corn Belt you can safely store shelled corn, grain sorghums, oats and wheat at 13 percent moisture with no mechanical ventilation. There should be no loss of market grade. Soybeans in this same area must be stored at 12 percent moisture. In colder areas, safe moisture content is 1 to 2 percent higher than these figures and in warmer areas, 1 to 2 percent lower. In the South, stored grain should contain at least 2 percent less moisture than in the central Corn Belt.

The maximum moisture content recommended for any region does not mean the average moisture content for a bin of grain. It means that no grain in the bin can contain more moisture than this specified figure without risking considerable damage.

Eliminate Golden Opportunities for Weevil: Any weevil now in stored grain will have a golden opportunity to do a lot of damage before winter. Temperature of grain, according to the Kansas State College entomology department, usually remains warm enough for the insects to reproduce up to November. So now is the time to urge farmers, handlers and processors to double-check binned grain for infestation. As you know, wheat in interstate transit is diverted from food use if probe samples show weevil damage to kernels amounting to one percent by weight.

You can spot trouble by using a probe or by inspecting the surface of grain as well as grain around bin doors. You can see weevils easily if you spread grain samples on a canvas or sheet of white paper.

Fumigation, of course, is the only answer to destroy weevils once they're found in stored grain.

Federal Extension Service Clean Grain Committee: Otto C. Croy, chairman; P. F. Aylesworth, J. B. Claar, Robert O. Gilden, Kenneth D. Goodrich, Tom Hall, Eunice Heywood, M. P. Jones, J. R. Paulling, Bryan Phifer, C. A. Sheffield.